

Senate Resolution 498

By: Senators James of the 35th and Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Xernona Clayton; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Xernona Clayton is the founder, president, and CEO of the Trumpet Awards
- 3 Foundation, Inc., and creator and executive producer of the Foundation's Trumpet Awards;
- 4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Trumpet Awards is a prestigious event highlighting African American
- 6 accomplishments and contributions; initiated in 1993 by Turner Broadcasting, the Trumpet
- 7 Awards has been televised annually and distributed internationally to more than 185
- 8 countries around the world; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Xernona moved to Atlanta in 1965 where she accepted a position with the
- 10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked closely with the late Dr. Martin
- 11 Luther King, Jr.; she also traveled extensively with Mrs. Coretta Scott King on her
- 12 nationwide concert tours; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she began her television career in 1967 and became the South's first Black
- 14 person to have her own television show, *The Xernona Clayton Show*; it was a regular feature
- 15 on WAGA-TV, the CBS affiliate in Atlanta; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Xernona was employed at Turner Broadcasting for nearly 30 years where she
- 17 served as a corporate executive and became one of its highest-ranking female employees
- 18 when she was appointed corporate vice president for urban affairs; in this capacity, she
- 19 directed internal and external projects for the corporation and served as liaison between
- 20 Turner Broadcasting and civic groups in Atlanta and across the country; and
- 21 WHEREAS, her persistent fight against the demons of prejudice and bigotry was never more
- 22 apparent than in 1968, when the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan denounced the Klan and
- 23 credited Xernona's influence with his change; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding achievements of this
25 extraordinary leader be appropriately recognized.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 recognize and commend Xernona Clayton for her innumerable contributions to society and
28 extend the most sincere best wishes for continued success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Xernona Clayton.